Lesser Budget Allocation for Welfare of Handicapped

4389. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of handicapped persons is constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether budget allocation is much lesser as compared to large number of handicapped persons;

(d) if so, whether Government will consider to hike the budget provision in accordance with the number of handicapped persons;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government for the rehabilitation to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Sample survey conducted by National Sampie Survey Organisation in 1981 covering only three disabilities (viz. Visual, communication and locomotor) estimated that about 1.8% of the total population of the country comprised of disabled persons. Sample survey conducted by the same organisation in 1991 covering four kinds of disabilities (viz. visual, hearing, speech and locomotor) estimated 1.9% population as disabled. Both these surveys did not include mentally handicapped persons.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made for sufficient & budgetary allocation to meet needs of the diabled persons.

(f) The steps taken for rehabilitation of these persons are indicated in the entered statement (*see* below).

Statement

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisation to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. Financial support is given upto 90% of the total project cost for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistnace is given for projects like vocational training centre, special schools, counselling centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment & Development of Special Schools

The scheme evisages assistance to NGOs upto 90% for establishment and upgradation of Special Schools in four major disabilities-orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visually and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are not special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for Manpower Development

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerbral Palsy & Mental Retardation.

(4) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons.

(5) National Institutes

In order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These Institutes are apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These Institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their area of disability:—

(i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.

(ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.

(iii) Ali yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.

(iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:—

(f) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(ii) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Rsearch, Olatpur, Orissa.

(6) Employment

(i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:—

(a) blindness or low vision;

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

in the post identified for each disability 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the Law came into force. In pursuance of this provision extension of 3% reservation in Group 'A' & 'B' posts under the Central Government for physically handicapped persons—1% each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped have been notified by DOPT's Circular No. 36035/16/91-Estt. (SCT) dated 18.2.97.

(ii) 50 Special Employment Exchanges and 39 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped persons in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped perons i finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/UTs.

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest;

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and applicances that promote their physically, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered Societies, trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Both Governmental and non-Governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost of their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201/- to Rs. 2500/-.

(8) Government of India have recently enacted 'The Persons with Disabilities (Equal) Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995'. The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment, non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally handicapped persons.

(9) A National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.